IN THE CLAIMS:

1 – 7 (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A method of determining the living character of an ~~element~~ a finger, of a user carrying a fingerprint and said finger being placed on a fingerprint sensor having an optical system, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) measuring an electrical quantity of the ~~element~~ finger;

~~(b) determining the living character of the element when the electrical quantity measured belongs to a range of quantities judged acceptable;~~

[[(c)]](b) taking of an image of the fingerprint carried by the ~~element~~ finger by means of the optical system;

[[(d)]](c) measurement of a particular characteristic of the image;

(d) [[and]] deducing of a range of values [[from]] for the electrical quantity of the finger judged in principle acceptable using a relationship established between values of a particular characteristic of the image and a range of said values of the electrical quantity of the finger judged acceptable; and

(e) ~~validation of~~ validating ~~the value of the electrical quantity measured if this measurement is situated in the range~~.the living character of the finger when the measured electrical quantity belongs to the deduced range.

9. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the particular characteristic is selected from the group consisting of: the contrast of the image, the average greyscale of the image, the width of the images of the ridges formed by the said fingerprints, and the average greyscale of the ridges.

10. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 9, wherein the electrical quantity is the impedance whose value is measured at the terminals of electrodes that the sensor has.

11. (currently amended) A fingerprint sensor adapted to determine the living character of ~~an element~~ a finger, of a user carrying a fingerprint, said finger being placed on the sensor, the sensor comprising:

(a) means of measuring an electrical quantity of the ~~element~~ finger;

~~(b) means of determining the living character of the element when the electrical quantity measured belongs to a range of values judged acceptable;~~

[[c]](b) an optical system for taking an image of the fingerprint carried by the ~~element~~ finger by means of the optical system

(c) means for measuring a particular characteristic of the image ~~thus taken~~;

(d) means ~~for establishing~~ [[the]] of deducing a range of values for the electrical quantity judged in principal acceptable using a relationship established between values of [[a]] the particular characteristic of the image and a range of values of the electrical quantity of the finger judged acceptable;

~~(e) means of deducing a range of values of the electrical quantity judged in principle acceptable from the particular characteristic measured; and~~

[[(f)]] (e) means of validating the living character of the finger when the measured value of the electrical quantity of the finger ~~measured if this measurement is situated in the range~~ belongs to the deduced range.

12. (previously presented) A sensor according to Claim 11, further comprising an optical system for measuring a quantity selected from the group consisting of: the contrast of the image, the average greyscale of the image, the width of the images of the ridges formed by the said fingerprints, and the average greyscale of the said ridges.

13. (previously presented) A sensor according to Claim 12, wherein the means of measuring an electrical quantity is a means of measuring impedance at the terminals of electrodes.

14. (previously presented) A sensor according to Claim 13, wherein the electrodes are formed on a transparent plate , the connections to the electrodes being conductive and also transparent.